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La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

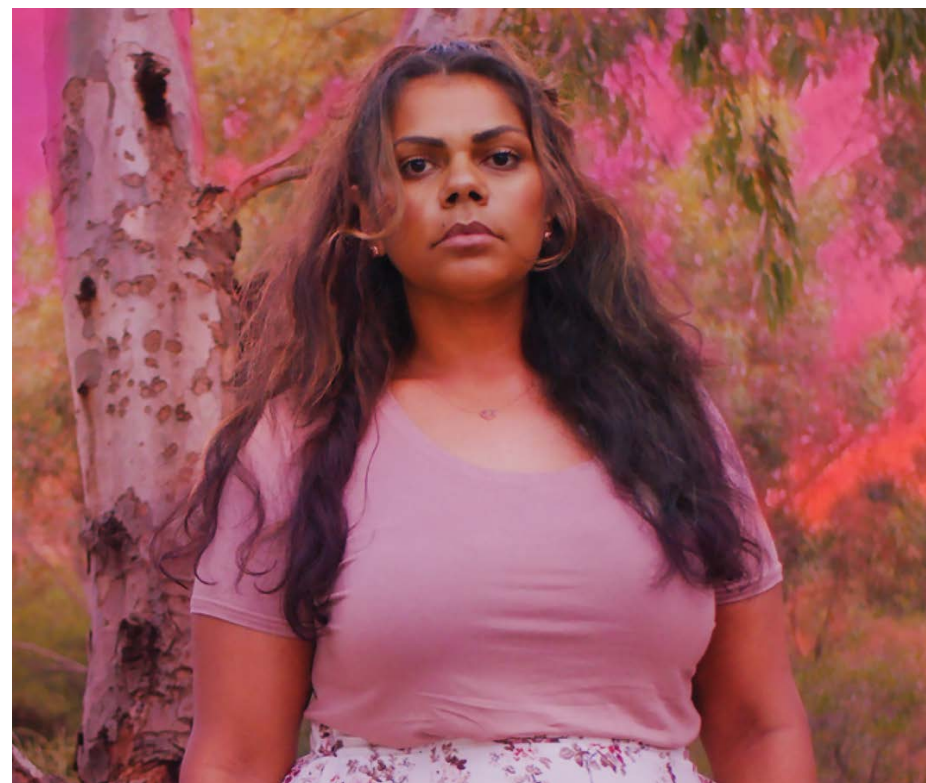
We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community as we work towards the La Mama rebuild. Thank you!

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund - an Australian Government initiative, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne through the *Arts and Creative Partnerships Program*.



L A M A M A P R E S E N T S NGARNGK; GIVER OF LIFE

As Part of YIRRAMBOI Festival 2021



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YIRRAMBOI
TOMORROW

NGARNGK; GIVER OF LIFE

Written by **NazAree Dickerson**

Directed by **NazAree Dickerson**

Performed by **Denice Kickett, Kristel Kickett** and **Carissa Lee**

Sound design by **Candice Lorrae**

Set design by **Bianca Pardo**

Lighting design by **Lowana van Dorssen**

Stage manager **Lowana van Dorssen**

Dramaturgy by **Bridget Boyle**

Photography credit **Candice Lorrae**

Acknowledgement

The production cast and crew of Ngarnk would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional owners of the land on which we meet, The Wurundjeri of the Kulin nations. We say thank you for the privilege of creating our work on Kulin Country here in Naarm and uphold that your sovereignty never ceded.

Content warning: Contains adult concepts, frequent coarse language and sensitive material relating to themes of Stolen Generations and violence against women. Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636.

Creator's Note

Welcome to my first play! Ngarnk; Giver of life is my ode to all the mothers who have continued to nurture in spite of their circumstances. My own mother, stolen aged 2, managed to raise 6 kids on her own. Traumatized and scarred from her experience in 'the system' somehow she managed to show us love, understanding and most importantly she taught us to be proud of who we are.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are stereotyped in many negative ways. This work gives us a snapshot of the resilience and courage it takes to be an Indigenous mother in this country.

I'd like to acknowledge all the wonderful women who helped get this work to where it is, Kamarra Bell Wykes, Rachael Maza, Shiralee Hood. My production team, you guys rock! My amazing cast and of course my family, my mum, my sisters, my son James and my wonderful partner Jamara. I could not have done this without you. Thank you and enjoy the show!

NYOONGAR LANGUAGE GLOSSARY

Consultant: **Denice Kickett**

MATAGARUP	Heirisson Island, a public reserve near Perth city
NGARNGK	Mother, the sun, Giver of life
NYORN	A statement of empathy e.g. She looks cold Nyorn
UNNA	Re asserts accompanying statement, can also be used in a question e.g. That's my water bottle unna?
KOONYEE	Not very good, sub par e.g. Those shoes are koonyee
TUPPY	Vagina/Woman's private parts
YONGKA	Kangaroo
BOODJAH	The land, The earth, country
BOODJAREE	Pregnant
NYOONGAH	First peoples of the South west, Western Australia
WINYARN	Sorry, down and out, not in a positive head space
YOK	Woman

YORGAH	Women
KARTADJIN	Knowledge
KARTWARRA	Sick in the head, not right, Crazy
KUBBARLY	Grandmother
WADJELLAH	Caucasian, not a person of colour
BULLAY	An alert e.g. Bullay, look out
KOORLANGAH	Children
MUNARCH	The police
DJILGIE	Fresh water marron
BOORDIYAH	Leader
WANJOO	Welcome
KWABBABIDI	Good path
WAARGYL	Rainbow Serpent/Creator Spirit
KARTMAHDADJEN	Your life/spirit
NOONOOK	To you e.g. I am your Ngarngk or Noonook Ngarngk
MOORDITCH	Strong, Deadly
DJERRIPIN	Happy for/to go happily
MARDONG	Flirtatious



Denice Kickett

(Performing as Cherie Tannin)

Denice is Whadjuk yorgah of Nyoongar Nation (south-west WA) with strong kinship connections throughout Western Australia. Denice is a passionate

advocate for human rights and considers herself to be a positive change agent. With over 30 years of professional experience working in Aboriginal Affairs, she has also worked in the not for profit, corporate, and public services sector. Her passion in life has been to work with organisations that are committed to assisting Indigenous people for the betterment of their lifestyles. Denice's years of work experience include the development of Indigenous strategies relating to employment, participation plans, Inclusion and engagement strategies, and Reconciliation Action Plans. Denice's career also spans into the performing arts where she held a leading role in Australia's first Indigenous Theatre. Denice is proud of First Nations cultures, particularly her own, and she will warmly share her knowledge with those who are open to learning.



Kristel Kickett

(Performing as Missy Tannin)

Kristel Kickett is a proud Whadjuk Ballardong Nyoongar woman originally from Perth WA. Her Aboriginal name given is 'Mingyalu' which means clear

waters. Being inspired by her talented family playing guitar, singing and dancing around the camp fire, it was clear that she will follow in the path of becoming a beautiful songstress. In School, Kristel was passionate in attending the school choir, music and drama classes. Shortly after graduating, she then joined Abmusic College. This is where she started really exploring and understanding the art of music and writing. This led her to opportunities in the Music Industry where she met her soul sister Candice and joined forces to create the perfect duo, The Merindas. She has also started acting in Theatre just recently in Melbourne to explore ideas and open her mind to creativity.



Carissa Lee

(Performing as Sally Tannin)

Carissa Lee is a Noongar actor and writer born on Wemba-Wemba country. Carissa has performed with Melbourne Theatre Company, the Malthouse

Theatre, La Mama, and State Theatre Company of South Australia. Some of her favourite roles were in productions Caryl Churchill's Top Girls, Andrew Bovell's Holy Day, and portraying Charles Manson in Robert Reid's The Bacchae. Carissa has also appeared in film, and TV productions House Husbands, The Sammy J Show, and political campaigns such as Treaty Victoria's Deadly Questions and VACCA's It's What you Don't See series. Carissa is proud to have been involved as an actor for Ngarnk since early reading stages, and has also seen this as an opportunity to learn more about her Noongar heritage.



NazAree Dickerson

(Writer-Director-Producer)

NazAree Dickerson is a Nyoongah/Burmese artist that is based in Melbourne. A theatre maker for 25 years, Naz has worked around Australia and internationally

with leading arts organisations such as Ilbjerri Theatre Company, JUTE, and Yirra Yaakin. Currently a Program director for Ilbjerri Youth Ensemble. This is one of many hats she wears. Actor/Writer/Director and Producer, Naz has now stepped into a new era of her creative practice with her two debut plays 'CRUMBS' and Ngarnk; Giver of Life both premiering as part of Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival.



Candice Lorrae

(Sound Design-Producer)

Candice Lorrae is an established award winning singer/songwriter and music producer with Jawoyn and Torres Strait Islander roots. Currently based in Melbourne

with 20 years experience in the Music Industry, she has worked alongside ARIA Award winning producers and is rapidly solidifying her place as a skilled beatmaker. Candice is a dynamic and eclectic artist with influences from many genres and is the producer for and one half of the successful pop duo, The Merindas. Candice just recently started work in sound designing for theatre with last year's highly praised production Reckōning "Te Waiata Paihere Wairua -The Sounds of Woven Souls" awarding her 'Best Emerging Indigenous Artist' at Melbourne Fringe.



Lowana van Dorssen

(Stage Manager)

Lowana is passionate about live performance and its potential for storytelling. During her time studying Stage Management at the Victorian College of the Arts,

she had the pleasure of interning on MTC's "*Storm Boy*", and Chunky Move Dance Company's "*Token Armies*". Post-graduation, Lowana has worked on various shows; including Red Stitch's world premiere of "*Single Ladies*", Between the Buildings Australian premiere of "*What Every Girl Should Know*" and Night Creatures "*Electric Loneliness*". Lowana is a proud member of the MEAA.



Bianca Pardo

(Set and Costume Design)

Bianca is a passionate Melbourne/Naarm based designer and maker. Her credits include costume construction roles on 'The Gallery Workout' with the NGV,

'The Dressmaker' and the 'School of Rock'. Throughout Bianca's graduate year from the VCA, 2019, she was the Set Designer for 'Fucking A', Costume Designer for 'Mad Forest' and completed internships in Prague for Semafor Theatre and Česká Televize and with Set and Costume Designer, Christina Smith. Bianca was the Set Designer for 'TAKEBACK!' directed Candy Bowers in March this year and is incredibly excited to be starting this year off with two strong pieces led by BIPOC women.



Bridget Boyle

(Dramaturge)

Bridget Boyle is a performer, director, teacher, dramaturg, performance maker and co-founder of debase productions. She has been involved in the creation of many new works,

including The Longest Minute (co-creator, director; co-production with Queensland Theatre and JUTE), co-winner of Best Mainstage Production Matilda Awards 2018. Other works include Hurry up and Wait (co-creator/ director with Liz Skitch), originally commissioned by Queensland Theatre (Shanghai International Arts Festival 2019, Kijimuna Festa Fringe 2012), The Furze Family Variety Hour, which she wrote and directed and which was staged as part of the Brisbane Festival in 2014 and Lily Can't Sleep (co-creator, performer, director with Liz Skitch and David Megarrity), commissioned by Queensland Theatre which toured Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne and Queensland after a premier season in QPAC's Out of the Box Festival. Debase productions won the 2018 Gold Matilda award for special contribution to Queensland theatre. Read more credits at www.debase.com.au